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7590  
Randolph A Smith  
Smith Patent Office  
Suite 1901  
1901 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20006-3433

EXAMINER
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CHERY, MARDOCHIEE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2188

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PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

# Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/564,817

**Applicant(s)**

MAEDA ET AL.

**Examiner**

MARDOCHEE CHERY

**Art Unit**

2188

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 January 2006 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/17/06.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Remarks***

1. The entire disclosure appears to be a literal machine translation of a related Japanese application. The following objections and rejections are made as best understood by the Examiner with the broadest reasonable interpretation in view. Applicant is encouraged to review the entire disclosure, especially the claims, for informalities and other grammatical issues that appear to obscure aspects of the claimed invention.

### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on January 17, 2006 and is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

### ***Priority***

3. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

### ***Oath/Declaration***

4. The Oath/Declaration filed on June 16, 2006 has been reviewed.

### ***Drawings***

5. The drawings are objected to because in Fig. 4, "1 Sectors" should be changed to -1 Sector-. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the

immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

***Specification***

6. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:
- a) The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because in line 5, "to retrieve an free area" should be changed to --to retrieve a free area--. Correction is required.  
See MPEP § 608.01(b).
  - b) On page 3, line 12, "retrieving an free area" should be changed to --retrieving a free area--.
  - c) On page 4, lines 17 and 23, and throughout the rest of the disclosure, "processor accesses to area management" should be changed to --processor accesses area management--, and "a processor which accesses to an information" should be changed to --a processor which accesses an information--.

These informalities are repeated throughout the entire disclosure. Appropriate correction is required.

***Remarks***

7. Throughout the claims, "the access size" will be interpreted as "the block size or the cache block" as it appears in the disclosure.

***Claim Objections***

8. Claims 1-15 are objected to because of the following informalities:
- a. In claim 1, line 6, it appears that "processor accesses to area management" should be changed to --processor accesses area management--.
  - b. In claim 2, line 5, it appears that "retrieving an free area" should be changed to "retrieving a free area".
  - c. In claim 5, line 3, it appears that "as the access size in accessing to the head" should be changed to --as the access size in accessing the head--.
  - d. Claim 5 appears not to make sense. Claim 5 recites "as the access size...is performed, the access size is a size of said area management information...is used". How can the access size be performed? What does it mean "as the access size is performed, the access size...is a size...is used?"
  - e. In claim 7, line 5, it appears that "retrieving an free area" should be changed to --retrieving a free area--.
  - f. In claim 8, line 11, it appears that "a second area management information cache" should be changed to --the second area management information cache—

- g. In claim 12, line 2, it appears that "information processor which accesses to an information" should be changed to –information processor which accesses an information--.
- h. In claim 12, line 17, "a file system controller for accessing to the area" should be changed to –a file system controller for accessing the area--.
- i. Claim 13 recites "the first access size", the "second access size", "said first access size", and "said second access size" in lines 4, or 5, or 7-8, there is insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations. Additionally, "the access size" will be interpreted as "the block size of the cache block".
- j. In claim 15, line 3, "said file system controller accesses to:" should be changed to –said file system controller accesses:--.
- k. In claim 15, line 6, "retrieving an free area" should be changed to –retrieving a free area--.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

9. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

10. Claims 2-5, 8-11, and 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

- l. In particular, claim 2 first recites:  
"a processing content in said information processor

**comprises:**

a free area retrieval processing for retrieving [a] free area from said area management information; **and**

a link destination acquisition processing for acquiring a destination to be linked from said area management information.”

Claim 3 then states:

“when the processing content **is** said free area retrieval processing” which ignores the second clause of claim 2 which requires the “processing content” to comprise both “the free area retrieval processing” **and** “the link destination acquisition processing”. Furthermore, it is not clear what is meant by “the processing content in said information processor is said free area retrieval processing”. How can “a content” be “a retrieval processing”?

Likewise the recitation in claim 3 of “the processing content is said link destination acquisition processing” ignores the first clause of claim 2 which requires the “processing content” to comprise not just “the link destination processing” but also “the free area retrieval processing”. It is not clear what is meant by “the processing content is said link destination acquisition processing”.

m. Claim 8 experiences the same deficiencies pointed out above with respect to claims 2-5, regarding “a processing content **comprises:** a free area retrieval processing **and** a link destination acquisition processing”.

n. Claim 4 recites inter alias “the access size to said area management information in said free area retrieval processing”. “the free area retrieval

processing" as seen in claim 2 appears to be a step of the method claimed.

Therefore, it is unclear how "the access size to said area management information" [could be] "in said free area retrieval processing" (i.e., in the step of a method).

o. Claim 5 appears not to make sense. Claim 5 recites "as the access size...is performed, the access size is a size of said area management information...is used". How can the access size be performed? What does it mean "as the access size...is performed, the access size...is a size...is used? It is unclear what these limitations entail.

p. Claims 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph as being indefinite. In particular, claim 8, line 9 recites the limitation "the size". It is unclear whether "the size" in line 9 of claim 8 is referring to the "physical management block size" recited in lines 6-7 of claim 8 or, "access size" recited in claim 6, line 5.

q. Claims 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph as being indefinite. Claim 13 recite "said FAT cache has each of one or more blocks of two types of blocks of a block...". It is unclear whether, in the case of only one block, that one block will have a first access size and a second access size associated with it, or whether to have a first access size and a second access size, it is required more than one block. These limitations are indefinite and ambiguous. This limitation will be interpreted as one block having one access



size and more than one block having a first access size and a second access size.

r. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph as being indefinite. In particular, claim 14, lines 4 and 11 recite "the size". It is unclear whether "the size" in claim 14 is referring to the "size of each block" of claim 12, or "the first access size", or "the second access size" of claim 13.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

11. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

12. Claims 1-5 and 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ohbi (2004/0047602).

As per claim 1, Ohbi discloses a data area managing method for an information recording medium [*a recording medium having a data area having data and first management data for managing the data*; par. 0017], the method is used in an information processor that manages data stored in an information recording area in the information recording medium as a file [*the data recording/reproducing based on*

*the first management data such as a FAT system; par. 0047], wherein when said information processor accesses to area management information that manages a free area state and link state of the information recording area in said information recording medium, access size is changed according to processing content in said information processor [Fig. 7, start address, end address, link information; a status of managing parts which provide free areas and the free areas and the status is represented by pointer by the link of part tables; Figs. 7, 14, 17; pars. 0176; one cluster is composed of four link sectors; par. 0221; the FAT clusters store a FAT file system configured by FAT and data files managed by FAT; par. 0257; the handling of data in the FAT file system is performed on a FAT sector basis; a rewriting operation on the disk is performed on a data cluster basis so that in the case of the rewriting of one particular FAT sector, the rewriting on the disk is performed in a unit of the data cluster in which this FAT sector is included; par. 0258].*

As per claim 2, Ohbi discloses a processing content in said information processor comprises: a free area retrieval processing for retrieving an free area from said area management information [Fig. 7; *a sector specified so that the address of the program area and the address of the free area is recorded allowing retrieval of the free area information; par. 0116; a status of managing parts which provide free areas and the free areas and the status is represented by pointer by the link of part tables; par. 0176*]; and a link destination acquisition processing for acquiring a destination to be linked from said area management information [Fig. 7, *the link information indicative of the table recording the start and end addresses of the linked information is recorded; pars. 0165, 0176*].

As per claim 3, Ohbi discloses as the access size to said area management information, when the processing content in said information processor is said free area retrieval processing, a first access size determined from physical characteristics of said information recording medium or a size less than the size is used [*management data sector is specified so that the address of the free area is recorded; par. 0116; management data recorded in the recordable area is the management information which is rewritten; par. 0131; when recording to the disk, the disk drive apparatus searches sector 0 for the free area on the disk and records data in the free area; pars. 0159; 175*], and when the processing content in said information processor is said link destination acquisition processing, a second access size that is an access unit of said information recording medium is used [*one cluster is composed of 4 link sectors; the physical address is assigned on a sector basis composed of cluster address as the upper value and sector address as the lower value; pars. 0151, the link information indicative of the table recording the start and end addresses of the linked information is recorded; the start address and the end address are the values equivalent to the cluster/sector addresses; pars. 0165*].

As per claim 4, Ohbi discloses as the access size to said area management information in said free area retrieval processing, when access to a location other than a head or end of said area management information is performed, a physical management block size determined from physical

characteristics of said information recording medium is used [*one cluster is composed of 4 link sectors; the physical address is assigned on a sector basis composed of cluster address as the upper value and sector address as the lower value; pars. 0151; when recording a track to the disk, the disk drive apparatus searches the sector 0 for the free area on the disk and records data in the retrieved free area and later accesses the retrieved area; par. 0159*], and when access to the head or end of said area management information is performed, a size equal to or less than said physical management block size is used [*the size of a logical sector is smaller than that of a cluster, therefore, in the disk drive, it is necessary to convert each logical sector into a physical address wherein each of the logical sectors as FAT sectors is 2048 bytes, the numbers starting with 0 and the data cluster 65536 bytes; pars. 0333-0334, 0336*].

As per claim 5, Ohbi discloses as the access size in accessing to the head or end of said area management information is performed, the access size is a size of said area management information in the physical management block determined from physical characteristics of said information recording medium is used [*when recording a track to the disk, the disk drive apparatus searches the sector 0 for the free area on the disk and records data in the retrieved free area and later accesses the retrieved area; par. 0159; the size of a logical sector is smaller than that of a cluster, therefore, in the disk drive, it is necessary to convert each logical sector into a physical address wherein each of the logical sectors as FAT sectors is 2048 bytes, the numbers starting with 0 and the data cluster 65536 bytes; pars. 0333-0334, 0336*].

As per claim 12, Ohbi discloses an information processor which accesses to an information recording medium managing data stored in an information recording area by a file system [*a recording medium having a data area having data and first management data for managing the data*; par. 0017; *the data recording/reproducing based on the first management data such as a FAT system*; par. 0047] comprising: a FAT cache for reading and storing area management information which manages a free state and link state of said information recording area from said information recording medium [*reading data cluster which includes the requested FAT sector, the retrieved cluster is written in the cluster buffer memory (cache), rewriting data of the FAT sector in the buffer memory*; pars. 0276, 0277, 0279; *a status of managing parts which provide free areas and the free areas and the status is represented by pointer by the link of part tables*; Figs. 7, 14, 17; pars. 0176]; a volatile memory for holding, data including a start address of each block, location of the area management information stored in each block on said information recording medium [Fig. 11, *volatile memory 5*; Fig. 7, *start address, end address, link information*; *a status of managing parts which provide free areas and the free areas and the status is represented by pointer by the link of part tables*; Figs. 7, 14, 17; pars. 0176; Fig. 7, *the link information indicative of the table recording the start and end addresses of the linked information is recorded*; pars. 0165, 0176], size of each block, and presence or absence of update, as FAT cache management information for managing said FAT cache by dividing said FAT cache into a plurality of blocks [Fig. 7; *checking for data modification*, par. 0140; *a sector specified so that the address of the program area and the address of the free area is recorded allowing retrieval of the free area information*; par. 0116; *a status of managing parts which provide free*

*areas and the free areas and the status is represented by pointer by the link of part tables; par. 0176; the size of a logical sector is smaller than that of a cluster, therefore, in the disk drive, it is necessary to convert each logical sector into a physical address wherein each of the logical sectors as FAT sectors is 2048 bytes, the numbers starting with 0 and the data cluster 65536 bytes; Fig. 6, 7, 10; pars. 0333-0334, 0336]; a FAT cache controller for referring to and updating said FAT cache management information and controlling a read and change of said area management information to said FAT cache [Fig. 11, checking for data modification, par. 0140; controller 3 for buffer/cache memory 4; the controller 3 controls the transfer and recording of data; the buffer memory 4 buffers the data read under the control of controller 3; the controller 3 transfers stored in the buffer memory 4 as rewritten in necessary FAT sectors; pars 0267, 0268, 0280]; and a file system controller for accessing to the area management information through said FAT cache controller and storing data in the information recording medium as a file [Fig. 11, system controller 9 accesses management data through FAT buffer controller 3 and stores the data as a file; the system controller 9 receives commands such as request to write and read and sending status information and other necessary information; the system controller 9 performs control that the data of the requested FAT sector are read from the data stored in the buffer memory 4; the system controller 9 supplies the data of the FAT sector to the memory controller 3 to cause it to rewrite the data of the FAT sector in the buffer memory 4; par. 0271; 0277, 0279].*

Asp per claim 13, Ohbi discloses said FAT cache has each of one or more blocks of two types of blocks of a block having the first access size and a block having the second access size [FAT clusters #0 through #55 of 8192 bytes store a FAT file

*system configured by FAT and data files managed by FAT; par. 0257; management data sector is specified so that the address of the free area is recorded; par. 0116; management data recorded in the recordable area is the management information which is rewritten; par. 0131; when recording to the disk, the disk drive apparatus searches sector 0 for the free area on the disk and records data in the free area; pars. 0159; 175], said first access size is a physical management block size determined from physical characteristics of said information recording medium and said second access size is an access unit of said information recording medium [the handling of data in the FAT file system is performed on a FAT sector basis; par. 0258; one cluster is composed of 4 link sectors; the physical address is assigned on a sector basis composed of cluster address as the upper value and sector address as the lower value; pars. 0151, the link information indicative of the table recording the start and end addresses of the linked information is recorded; the start address and the end address are the values equivalent to the cluster/sector addresses; pars. 0165].*

As per claim 14, Ohbni discloses said FAT cache controller reads data from the information recording medium and holds them to a block having the size of the first access size, a size of the data is the physical management block size determined from physical characteristics of said information recording medium, when holding the area management information stored in a location of other than a head or end of said area management information [controller 3 for buffer/cache memory 4; the controller 3 controls the transfer and recording of data; the buffer memory 4 buffers the data read under the control of controller 3; the controller 3 transfers stored in the buffer memory 4 as rewritten in necessary FAT sectors; pars 0267, 0268, 0280; the size of a

*logical sector is smaller than that of a cluster, therefore, in the disk drive, it is necessary to convert each logical sector into a physical address wherein each of the logical sectors as FAT sectors is 2048 bytes, the numbers starting with 0 and the data cluster 65536 bytes; pars.*

0333-0334, 0336], and said FAT cache controller reads data from the information recording medium and holds them, the size of the data is equal to or less than said physical management block size, when holding the area management information stored in a location of the head or end of said area management information [*the size of a logical sector is smaller than that of a cluster, therefore, in the disk drive, it is necessary to convert each logical sector into a physical address wherein each of the logical sectors as FAT sectors is 2048 bytes, the numbers starting with 0 and the data cluster 65536 bytes; pars.* 0333-0334, 0336].

As per claim 15, Ohbni discloses said file system controller accesses to: a block having the first access size included in said FAT cache through said FAT cache controller when free area retrieval processing for retrieving an free area from said area management information [Fig. 7; *a sector specified so that the address of the program area and the address of the free area is recorded allowing retrieval of the free area information; par. 0116; a status of managing parts which provide free areas and the free areas and the status is represented by pointer by the link of part tables; par. 0176; the size of a logical sector is smaller than that of a cluster, therefore, in the disk drive, it is necessary to convert each logical sector into a physical address wherein each of the logical sectors as FAT sectors is 2048 bytes, the numbers starting with 0 and the data cluster 65536 bytes; pars.* 0333-0334, 0336], and a block having the second access size included in said



FAT cache through said FAT cache controller when a link destination acquisition processing for acquiring a destination to be linked from said area management information [Fig. 7, *the link information indicative of the table recording the start and end addresses of the linked information is recorded*; pars. 0165, 0176; *the size of a logical sector is smaller than that of a cluster, therefore, in the disk drive, it is necessary to convert each logical sector into a physical address wherein each of the logical sectors as FAT sectors is 2048 bytes, the numbers starting with 0 and the data cluster 65536 bytes*; pars. 0333-0334, 0336].

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

13. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
  2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
  3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
  4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.
14. Claims 6-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohbi (2004/0047602) and Pfister (2003/0033487).

As per claim 6, Ohbi discloses a cache having management block size provided as area management information cache in said information processor [*a data area having a first cache management data and a data area having second management data*; par. 0017; *a request to read a particular FAT sector wherein the retrieved cluster is written into the cluster buffer memory (i.e., cache)*; par. 0276; *converting logical sector into physical address and converting reading/writing on a logical sector basis into reading/writing on a cluster basis by use of the cluster buffer memory*; pars. 0336, 0344].

Ohbi does not explicitly teach two caches each having a different management block size are provided as area management information caches in said information processor, and by using said two caches for each different purposes, said access size is changed according to the processing content in said information processor.

Pfister, however, discloses two caches each having a different management block size are provided as area management information caches in said information processor, and by using said two caches for each different purposes, said access size is changed according to the processing content in said information processor [*a method for managing a plurality of caches on a plurality of independent computers wherein blocks of data may take many sizes and each block of data may be a different size from another block of data*; *replacing blocks in a cache depending on the rate of new block use and the size of the cache*; pars. 0012, 0113, 0115].

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of invention by applicant, to modify the system of Ohbi to include two caches each having a different management block size provided as area management information caches in said information processor, and by using said two caches for each different purposes,

said access size being changed according to the processing content in said information processor because doing so would have provided an improved method for managing operations to access data in a distributed system (par. 0011) as taught by Pfister.

As per claim 7, Ohbi discloses a processing content in said information processor comprises: a free area retrieval processing for retrieving a free area from said area management-information [Fig. 7; *a sector specified so that the address of the program area and the address of the free area is recorded allowing retrieval of the free area information*; par. 0116; *a status of managing parts which provide free areas and the free areas and the status is represented by pointer by the link of part tables*; par. 0176]; and a link destination acquisition processing for acquiring a destination to be linked from said area management information [Fig. 7, *the link information indicative of the table recording the start and end addresses of the linked information is recorded*; pars. 0165, 0176].

As per claim 8, the combination of Ohbi and Pfister would have achieved the same end result as the claimed invention since Pfister discloses two caches with management information areas [*managing a plurality of caches*; pars. 0012, 0113, 0115] and Ohbi discloses two area management information [*a data area having a first cache management data and a data area having second management data*; par. 0017] as shown in claim 6 and Ohbi further discloses as an alternative use of said two area management information caches, when the processing content in said information processor is said free area retrieval processing, a physical management block size determined from physical characteristics of said information recording medium or a first area

management information cache having a size less than the size is used [*management data sector is specified so that the address of the free area is recorded; par. 0116; management data recorded in the recordable area is the management information which is rewritten; par. 0131; when recording to the disk, the disk drive apparatus searches sector 0 for the free area on the disk and records data in the free area; pars. 0159; 175*], and when the processing content in said information processor is said link destination acquisition processing, a second area management information cache as minimum an access unit of said information recording medium is used [*one cluster is composed of 4 link sectors; the physical address is assigned on a sector basis composed of cluster address as the upper value and sector address as the lower value; pars. 0151, the link information indicative of the table recording the start and end addresses of the linked information is recorded; the start address and the end address are the values equivalent to the cluster/sector addresses; pars. 0165*].

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of invention by applicant, to modify the system of Ohbi to include two caches with management information areas because doing so would have provided an improved method for managing operations to access data in a distributed system (par. 0011) as taught by Pfister.

As per claim 9, the combination of Ohbi and Pfister would have achieved the same end result as the claimed invention since Pfister discloses two caches with management information areas [*managing a plurality of caches; pars. 0012, 0113, 0115*] and Ohbi discloses two area management information [*a data area having a first cache management data and a data area having second management data; par. 0017*] as shown in claim

6 and Ohbi further discloses as the access size to said area management information which uses said first area management information cache, when access to a location other than a head or end of said area management information is performed, a physical management block size determined from physical characteristics of said information recording medium is used *[one cluster is composed of 4 link sectors; the physical address is assigned on a sector basis composed of cluster address as the upper value and sector address as the lower value; pars. 0151; when recording a track to the disk, the disk drive apparatus searches the sector 0 for the free area on the disk and records data in the retrieved free area and later accesses the retrieved area; par. 0159]*, and when access to the head or end of said area management information is performed, a size equal to or less than said physical management block size is used *[the size of a logical sector is smaller than that of a cluster, therefore, in the disk drive, it is necessary to convert each logical sector into a physical address wherein each of the logical sectors as FAT sectors is 2048 bytes, the numbers starting with 0 and the data cluster 65536 bytes; pars. 0333-0334, 0336]*.

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of invention by applicant, to modify the system of Ohbi to include two caches with management information areas because doing so would have provided an improved method for managing operations to access data in a distributed system (par. 0011) as taught by Pfister.

As per claim 10, Ohbi discloses when access to the head or end of the area management information is performed, using said first area management information

cache, the access size is a size of said area management information in the physical management block determined from physical characteristics of said information recording medium [*when recording a track to the disk, the disk drive apparatus searches the sector 0 for the free area on the disk and records data in the retrieved free area and later accesses the retrieved area*; par. 0159; *the size of a logical sector is smaller than that of a cluster, therefore, in the disk drive, it is necessary to convert each logical sector into a physical address wherein each of the logical sectors as FAT sectors is 2048 bytes, the numbers starting with 0 and the data cluster 65536 bytes*; pars. 0333-0334, 0336].

As per claim 11, Ohbi discloses a cache used only for an exclusive processing of reading [*read/write operation on a hidden data area is allowed only for particular devices in which the read/write operation is performed*; par. 0260].; said first area management information cache is used when the information stored in said area management information is changed [*the system controller supplies the data of the FAT sector to the memory controller to rewrite the data of the FAT sector in the buffer memory 4*; par. 0279; *the handling of data in the FAT file system is performed on a FAT sector basis; a rewriting operation on the disk is performed on a data cluster basis so that in the case of the rewriting of one particular FAT sector, the rewriting on the disk is performed in a unit of the data cluster in which this FAT sector is included*; pars. 0257, 0258].

Ohbi does not explicitly disclose a second area management information cache.

Pfister discloses a second area management information cache [*a method for managing a plurality of caches on a plurality of independent computers wherein blocks of data may take many sizes and each block of data may be a different size from another block of data; replacing blocks in a cache depending on the rate of new block use and the size of the cache*; pars. 0012, 0113, 0115].

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of invention by applicant, to modify the system of Ohbi to include a second area management information cache wherein that second cache is used only for an exclusive processing of reading (as shown in Ohbi) because doing so would have provided an improved method for managing operations to access data in a distributed system (par. 0011) as taught by Pfister.

### ***Conclusion***

15. When responding to the office action, Applicant is advised to clearly point out the patentable novelty that he or she thinks the claims present in view of the state of the art disclosed by references cited or the objections made. He or she must also show how the amendments avoid such references or objections. See 37 C.F.R. 1.111(c).

**16.** When responding to the Office action, Applicant is also advised to clearly point out where support, with reference to page, line numbers, and figures, is found for any amendment made to the claims.

17. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mardochee Chery whose telephone number is (571) 272-4246. The examiner can normally be reached Monday to Friday, from 8:30A-5:00P.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hyung Sough can be reached Monday to Friday, at (571) 272-6799. The

fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

January 24, 2009

/M.C./

Mardochee Chery  
Examiner  
AU: 2188